



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: John A. Lee, Head of School, Trinity School at Greenlawn
FROM: John Snethen, Hearing Officer, Indiana State Board of Education
RE: Appeal by Trinity School at Greenlawn of its 2015–16 Letter Grade
DATE: January 23, 2017

Finding: Trinity School at Greenlawn should be given a grade of A for 2015–16.

I. Facts

Trinity School at Greenlawn, South Bend, Indiana, in the 2013–14 and 2014–15 school years graduated 100% of its seniors, 100% of whom matriculated at four-year colleges and universities.

Trinity is a private school, and in the 2012–13 school year it first participated in Indiana's standardized assessments. Trinity's participation permitted it to receive School Choice Scholarship Program (vouchers). In that school year, Trinity was directed by Indiana education officials to administer the state's End of Course Assessments ("ECAs") at grade level only. This direction from the state was followed, and Trinity—which had already administered Algebra I ECAs to its 8th Grade—did not re-administer the Algebra I ECA.

In the 2015–16 school year, the direction Trinity received proved consequential when it came time to calculate Trinity's letter grade. Because in prior years Trinity had not administered the Algebra I ECA beyond the 8th Grade, Trinity was treated as though it had graduated 12% of its seniors only and did not receive credit for graduating all of its seniors and sending them all to college. In the 2015–16 school year, this resulted in Trinity receiving a grade of F.

II. Argument and Analysis

Trinity argues that because it graduated 100% of its seniors, it should receive an A. I agree.

The Indiana State Board of Education's school accountability rule assigns points to a high school based on four factors: (1) performance on the Grade 10 ISTEP+ English/Language Arts assessment; (2) performance on the Grade 10 ISTEP+ Algebra assessment; (3) graduation rate; and (4) college and career readiness. *See* 511 Ind. Admin. Code 6.2-10. As a result of following the direction of state education officials, Trinity's grade does not include administration of the 10th Grade Algebra I test; 10th Grade students who did not take the Algebra I test were, for the year at issue, treated as though they did not graduate.

The goal of the state's accountability rule is intended to appropriately recognize high school outcomes. The intent of that rule has been satisfied by Trinity: In 2013–14 and 2014–15 it graduated 100% of its seniors and sent 100% of them to higher education. Trinity's reliance on the directive of a state education official should not arbitrarily obscure Trinity's success. *See* 511 Ind. Admin. Code 6.2-10-11. Consequently, I find that Trinity's request for an A grade for 2015–16 should be granted.